



TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

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February 16, 2010

Senator Gary LeBeau, Chair
Representative Jeffrey Berger, Chair
Senator Joseph Crisco, Vice-Chair
Representative Bruce Zalaski, Vice Chair
Connecticut State Legislature – Commerce Committee

Re: S.B. No. 107 – “An Act Establishing A Bradley Development Zone”

I would like to thank the Commerce Committee for the opportunity to speak in favor of SB107 which will establish a Bradley Development Zone (BDZ). I am here today both as the President of the Bradley Development League (BDL) and as 1st Selectman of the Town of East Granby. The four BDL towns of East Granby, Suffield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks started working together in 1995 to maximize the economic benefits to be derived by sharing a common economic development engine – namely Bradley International Airport. I might add that the BDL towns saw the benefits of cooperation long before “regionalism” became a buzz word. As part of my package today I have included a map of the proposed zone, background information provided by the BDL, a marketing brochure and letters in support of the project from local officials and businesses.

Bradley International Airport is Connecticut’s flagship commercial airport and New England’s second largest airport. We firmly believe that the BDZ will help create new jobs, attract new capital and increase tax revenue to the state and municipalities in the region. While Bradley certainly is an economic development engine, it has not reached its full potential. As the author of the Gallis Report (December 1999) states, “Bradley potentially is the most significant facility influencing Connecticut’s development within the ‘New Atlantic Triangle’ and how the state and the Hartford/Springfield metropolitan region connect to the North American continent and the world”.

SB107 through a combination of economic development incentives including town abatements, up to a ten year corporate business tax credit for businesses receiving the property tax exemption and a sales tax exemption for machinery replacement will help drive economic development at Bradley forward creating more jobs and investment for Connecticut.

The airport has many esteemed corporate partners already and SB107 will allow continued economic development on over 1000 acres of undeveloped land with access to a major interstate highway system.

On behalf of the Bradley Development League and the Town of East Granby I ask the Committee and the Legislature pass this bill during the current session. We believe that SB107 will proactively produce jobs, capital investment and generate new state and municipal tax revenues. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Hayden", with a stylized, flowing script.

James M. Hayden

First Selectman

Town of East Granby